

Remarks/Arguments:

This is to clarify the remarks of our February 4 amendment.

We argued that EP 203 206 discloses filter cartridges have a diameter of more than 30 mm. Actually, EP 203 206 does not explicitly state that the filter cartridges have a diameter of more than 30 mm; however, John Desmet's declaration supports our conclusion that claim 1 is novel over EP 203 206. Mr. Desmet, the general manager of a company that manufactures cartridges according to EP 203 206, declared that no precoat filter cartridges with a diameter of less than 30 mm of the type now claimed were available prior to the filing date of this application, and he described why such cartridges could not have been made with the know-how from EP 203 206. Thus the declaration supports the argument not only for nonobviousness, but also for novelty over the prior art, including EP 203 206.

The February 4 amendment was fully responsive to the October 5 office action, so no additional extension fee is now required.

Respectfully submitted,



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I certify that this correspondence is being transmitted on March 9, 2005 to the Patent and Trademark Office by facsimile to 703.872.9306.

